

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
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CONFIDENTIAL

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FILE: *Travel*

MEMORANDUM FOR: CABINET MEMBERS AND AGENCY HEADS

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

SUBJECT: Travel to Paris by U.S. Officials

The President has asked me to remind you of the need to coordinate carefully on contacts between Administration officials and French officials as we seek to establish a working relationship with the new French Government. Public statements on the French elections or the future U.S.-France relationship should be avoided.

I am, therefore, on instructions from the President, requesting you to inform officials at the Deputy Assistant Secretary level and above in your department that they should obtain State Department approval prior to traveling to France for any official purpose. The Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs will be the point of contact for requests, which should be submitted to him in writing.

In general, we will discourage unnecessary official travel until after the Parliamentary elections sometime in June. Exceptions will be made for officials who are traveling on multilateral business (e.g., OECD or UNESCO), or who will attend the Paris Air Show June 4-14 and who will have no bilateral contact with French officials.

Those officials whose proposed contacts with French officials are approved will be asked to coordinate closely their policy guidance with the Bureau of European Affairs of the Department of State.

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